

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 STR-04 TRSE-00 TAR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4651

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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PASS AGRICULTURE (FOR TOBACCO DIVISION/FAS)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: TOBACCO CLASSIFICATION

REF: STATE 212489

1. AS REQUESTED REFTTEL, MEETINGS HELD WITH UK DEPT OF INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AS TO PROCEDURE NOW EMPLOYED BY UK FOR CLASSIFYING TOBACCO IMPORTS FROM US UNDER TARIFF ITEM 24.01A.

2. BASIC INFO GIVEN IN PARA 3 BELOW PROVIDED BY DAVID J. MALLION, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TOBACCO DIVISION OF MAIN CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS. INFO PROVIDED DEPT OF INDUSTRY BY J. WILSHIRE AND G. PRITCHARD ALONG SAME LINES THAT PROVIDED BY MALLION.

3. UK CUSTOMS OFFICIALS RELY MAINLY ON INFO PROVIDED IN THE BILL OF LADING AS TO TYPE, VOLUME, QUALITY AND UNIT VALUE OF TOBACCO BEING RECEIVED. PHYSICAL INSPECTION IS OCCASIONALLY MADE TO DETERMINE IF ANY DISCREPANCIES EXIST BETWEEN IMPORT DOCUMENT AND ACTUAL PRODUCT. ON THIS BASIS, UK CUSTOMS OFFICIALS SAY THAT NO DIFFICULTY IS BEING ENCOUNTERED IN DETERMINING WHICH IMPORTS ARE TO
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BE LISTED UNDER TARIFF ITEM 24.01A. REPORTEDLY, NO

CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO MOISTURE CONTENT IF IMPORTS ARE TO GO INTO BOND (AS MOST DO NOW).

4. IT WAS INDICATED THAT THE SAME GENERAL PROCEDURE (NOTED IN PARA 3 ABOVE) HAS BEEN USED BY UK FOR MANY YEARS.

5. REPORTEDLY, AS OF JANUARY 1, 1975, UK IMPORT REGULATIONS MADE IT MANDATORY THAT ALL IMPORTS OF "FLUE-CURED VIRGINIA TYPE AND LIGHT AIR-CURED BURLEY TYPE (INCLUDING BURLEY HYBRIDS)" BE SO STATED ON THE BILL OF LADING. WHILE UK OFFICIALS WERE NOT AWARE THAT ANY IMPORTER ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES IN MEETING THIS REQUIREMENT, IT WAS ASSUMED THAT DATA WERE MADE AVAILABLE BY EXPORTER.

7. UK OFFICIALS WERE RELUCTANT TO SAY JUST WHAT DEGREE OF SUPPORT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN HELPING TO DEVELOP OBJECTIVE CRITERIA FOR CLASSIFYING TOBACCO IMPORTS UNDER THE 24.01A TARIFF HEADING. AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT, IT WAS INTIMATED THAT THE UK WOULD COOPERATE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WITHIN RESTRICTION IMPOSED BY EC MEMBERSHIP IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, US, UK
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